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REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
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Edgefield County Judges

of S. C.

Honored at the

MID-SUMMER MEETING OF THE

Edgefield County Historical Society

JULY 10, 1942

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Compiled by

THE EDGEFIELD COUNTY (S. C.) HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Difficulty was experienced in securing photographic reproductions of some of the old portraits which appear in this publication, there being in several instances only one likeness in existence, so far as could be learned. In some instances the portraits had survived the ravages of time, of war, and of fire, and so the Society feels itself fortunate in having obtained cuts in spite of defects that may appear.)

GENEALOGICAL DEPARTMENT

The Edgefield Advertiser Print

1942

Red Jan 4-1977

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THE EDGEFIELD COUNTY (S. C.) HISTORICAL SOCIETY

GENEALOGICAL DEPARTMENT

The Edgefield Advertiser Print

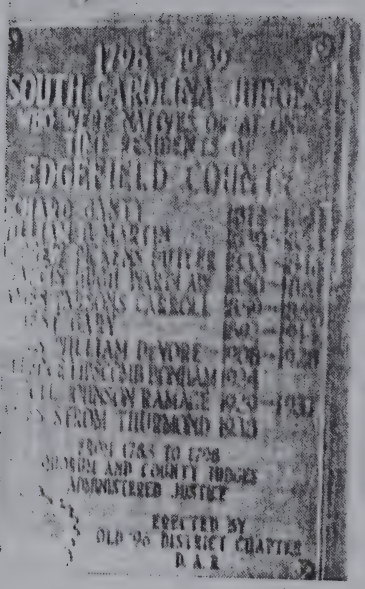
1963

Programme

MID-SUMMER MEETING OF THE EDGEFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, EDGEFIELD COURT HOUSE

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 1942—4:00 P. M.

Patriotic Music—Members of Daniel Field Band.
Invocation—Rev. L. P. McGee, Methodist Minister.
Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.
Music—"The Star Spangled Banner."
Words of Welcome—Mrs. M. N. Tillman, President.
Recognition of Edgefield Judges, Members of Their Families, and Other Distinguished Guests.
Vocal Solo, "The Spirit of Edgefield"—Mrs. William Wise of Trenton with Piano Accompaniment by Mrs. Lamar Smith.
Presentation of Portraits of Judges—Miss Hortense Woodson.
Acceptance for Edgefield County—Mr. L. T. May, Clerk of Court.
Unveiling of Tablet to Judges—Master John Hollingsworth and Master Ned Nicholson.
Dedication of Tablet—Mrs. Helen S. Nicholson, Regent "Old 96 District" Chapter, Daughters American Revolution.
Song, "America"—Audience.
Introduction of Speaker by Former Lieut.-Gov. James O. Sheppard.
Address—Congressman Butler B. Hare, Saluda, S. C.
Song, "God Bless America"—Audience.



Bronze Tablet in Edgefield Court House Honoring Twelve Judges

Edgefield Pays Honor to Judiciary Group

(Press Report)

Edgefield, July 12.—A large number of people from different sections of the State who love the history of Old Edgefield were present Friday afternoon for the program honoring the 12 men from this county who have served South Carolina as judges. The meeting, the mid-summer meeting of the Edgefield County Historical Society, was a public event held in the ancient court house, presided over by Mrs. Mamie N. Tillman, president.

Hare Is Present

Congressman Butler B. Hare came from Washington especially for the occasion, and made the principal address. After paying a warm tribute to the honored judges he pointed out some interesting facts regarding the similarity between the American court systems and the Biblical system as set forth in the account of the rule by judges. Mr. Hare was introduced by the Hon. J. O. Sheppard, former Lieutenant-Governor of the State

The program included special patriotic music by members of the Daniel Field band from Augusta and the singing of "The Spirit of Edgefield" by Mrs. William Wise of Trenton, accompanied by Mrs. Lamar Smith.

Portraits of five judges given by members of the respective families were presented to the county by Miss Hortense Woodson for the society, and were accepted for the county by L. T. May, clerk of court. Likenesses were displayed of Chief Justice Milledge L. Bonham, Federal Judge George Bell Timmerman, Judge J. Strom Thurmond, Judge J. W. DeVore, Judge A. P. Butler, Judge Ernest Gary, Judge William Martin, Judge Richard Gantt. In addition to these, the names of other judges are inincluded on a bronze plaque that was unveiled by young John Hollingsworth and Ned Nicholson, Jr.: Judge Francis H. Wardlaw, Judge James Parsons Carroll, Judge James E. Peurifoy, Judge C. J. Ramage.

Tablet Dedicated

Mrs. Helen S. Nicholson, regent of the D.A.R. in Edgefield, dedicated the tablet. It is an interesting fact that four of the judges honored are living today: Justice Bonham, Judge Peurifoy, Judge Timmerman and Judge Thurmond. Judge Timmerman and members of his family were present and were introduced, along with members of the families of other judges.

The United States flag, the Palmetto flag, the Confederate flag, and a special Edgefield flag with the inscription, "Give us a place in the picture," were used with many lovely flowers to decorate the court room where justice has been dispensed for 103 years. The Confederate flag was beneath the portrait of General Martin W. Gary, "Bald Eagle of Edgefield." Portraits of others already placed were of Senator B. R. Tillman, the Hon. J. William Thurmond, and Col. William H. Folk.

Sketches of Judges

JUDGE RICHARD GANTT

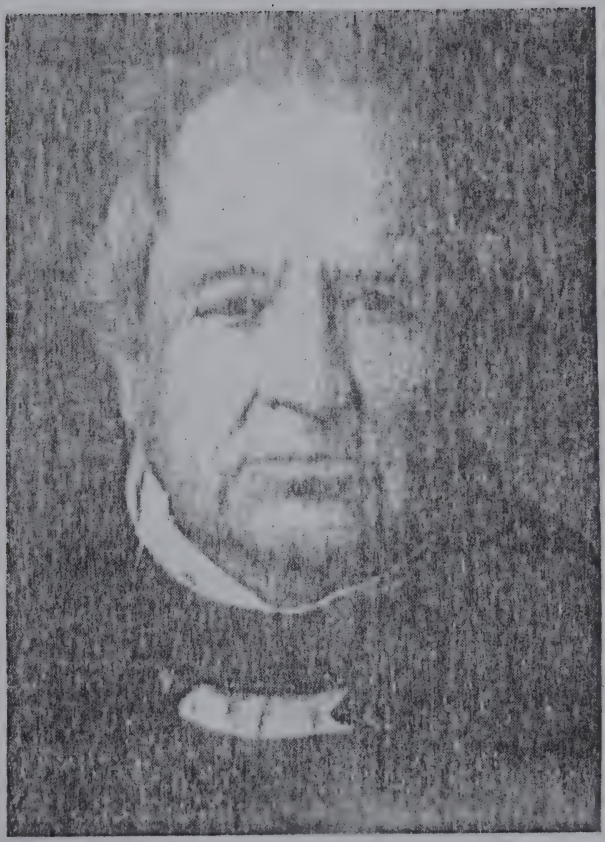
Term of Service: 1812-1841

JUDGE RICHARD GANTT

Richard Gantt was born in Prince George County, Maryland, August 2, 1767, and died October 18, 1850, in Greenville County, South Carolina. He was admitted to the bar in Charleston in 1794, and settled at Edgefield the same year, moving there from Augusta, Georgia. In law he attained high rank, being one of the most successful advocates who ever addressed a jury, it was said. He was known as a man of high character and a total abstainer from strong drink.

He became judge in 1812, and was lenient in his decisions except in cases of homicide, which received the severest penalties within his power. Because of failing health he resigned in 1841 at the age of 74, and the Legislature presented him with a year's salary.

Judge Gantt lived in Edgefield on Main, then called Jefferson street, later the home of Chancellor Wardlaw, where other distinguished Edgefieldians have lived. It is the residence now of Mrs. J. H. Cantelou. He later lived in other places in South Carolina, including Greenville. Judge Gantt's home in Greenville County was broken up following the War Between the States. A portrait of him owned by a descendant, Fred H. Gantt of Columbia, was taken to Texas by a member of the family who moved there. It recently came into Mr. Gantt's possession and he brought it to Edgefield for the meeting honoring the judges



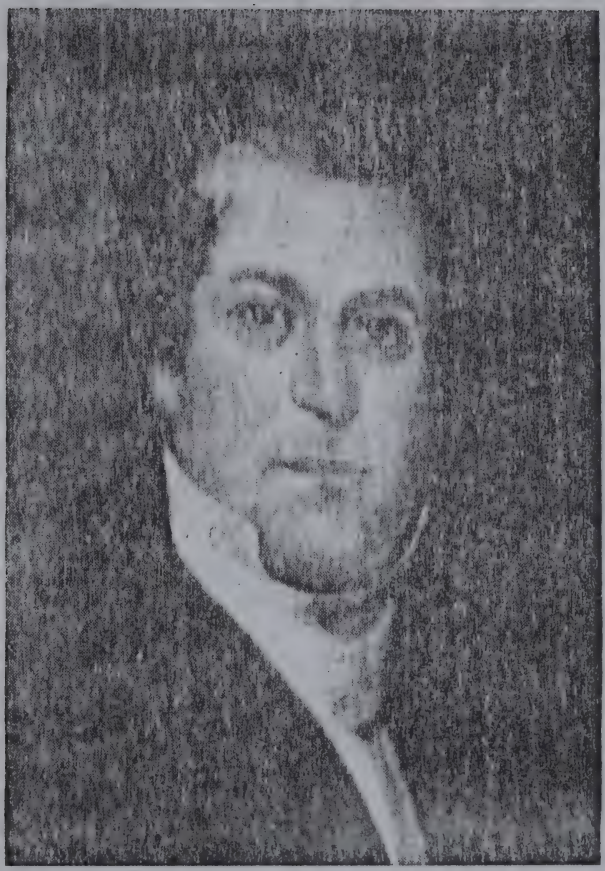
JUDGE WILLIAM D. MARTIN

Term of Service: 1830-1833

JUDGE WILLIAM D. MARTIN

William D. Martin was born at Martintown in Edgefield County October 2, 1789, the son of John Martin and grandson of Abram Martin and his wife, Elizabeth Marshall of Caroline County, Va., a cousin of John Marshall who was chief justice of the United States Supreme Court. After acquiring an academic education, William D. Martin studied law with Edmund Bacon in Edgefield and was admitted to the bar in 1811. He formed a partnership with Mr. Bacon afterward, and continued his practice in Edgefield after he moved to Coosahatchie. He was in the Legislature from the Low Country, and in the State Senate, and was elected to Congress in 1826. He became a law judge in 1830.

Judge Martin married first Miss Henrietta Williamson, daughter of Dr. Vincent Peter Williamson, and following her death, while he was a member of Congress, he married Miss Dorsey, daughter of Judge Dorsey of the Supreme Court of Maryland. On his way home from holding court in the Low Country of South Carolina, Judge Martin died in Charleston and is buried in St. Michael's church yard.



JUDGE ANDREW PICKENS BUTLER

Term of Service: 1833-1846

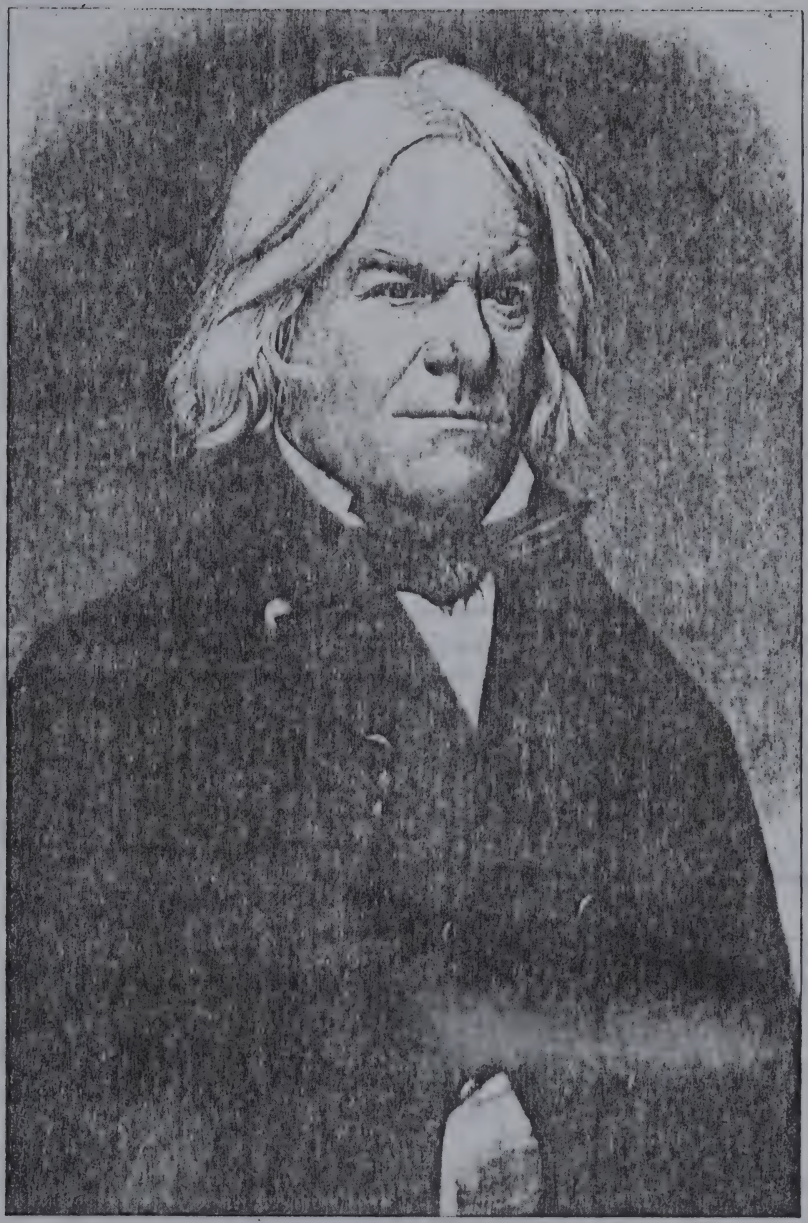
JUDGE ANDREW PICKENS BUTLER

Andrew Pickens Butler was a son of General William Butler of the American Revolution and was born in 1796. He went to school at Willington and later attended South Carolina College, becoming a lawyer in 1818. He opened an office in Columbia but later moved to Edgefield, his native county. In 1824 he became one of Governor Manning's aides. From 1824 to 1833 he was in the Legislature from Edgefield and in 1833 he was elected one of the Law Judges, serving until 1846 when he became United States Senator. Among the great lawyers of his day, Judge Butler was said to be outstanding in learning and in the social graces. A historian said of him: "His wit and humor were unfailing, his invective scathing, power of illustration unsurpassed, and at times his pathos would melt to tears."

He took part in the bitter debate of the pre-Confederate war period, and it was because of remarks reflecting upon him by Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts, that Butler's kinsman, Preston S. Brooks, chastised Sumner in 1856.

Judge O'Neall said of A. P. Butler: "Of all his qualities, he was most distinguished for a kind heart. He was ever a true friend. He despised a mean action, pitied rather than hated his enemies. A just, honest, good man in private life, in public he aimed to do right and supported his purpose with well-chosen actions and words."

Judge Butler died in 1857 and is buried in the Butler burying ground in the Saluda section of old Edgefield County.



JUDGE FRANCIS HUGH WARDLAW

Term of Service: 1850-1861

JUDGE FRANCIS HUGH WARDLAW

Francis Hugh Wardlaw was born at Abbeville Court House December 16, 1800, and was one of the many distinguished South Carolinians who attended the classical school of Dr. Moses Waddell at Willington. He came to Edgefield in 1822 and practiced law with Whitfield Brooks, R. H. Spann, William Moragne, and others. He was elected Chancellor Dec. 3, 1850, and Judge of the Court of Appeals in 1859. He married Ann Lamar of "Airville," near Hamburg. He died at Major Theodore Starke's in Columbia in 1861 and is buried in Edgefield.

In all respects, historians say he lived a full and useful life, and died in the full affection of his people. He had a brother, David Lewis Wardlaw, was who an able Law Judge, but not identified with Edgefield.

CHANCELLOR JAMES PARSONS CARROLL

Term of Service: 1859-1869

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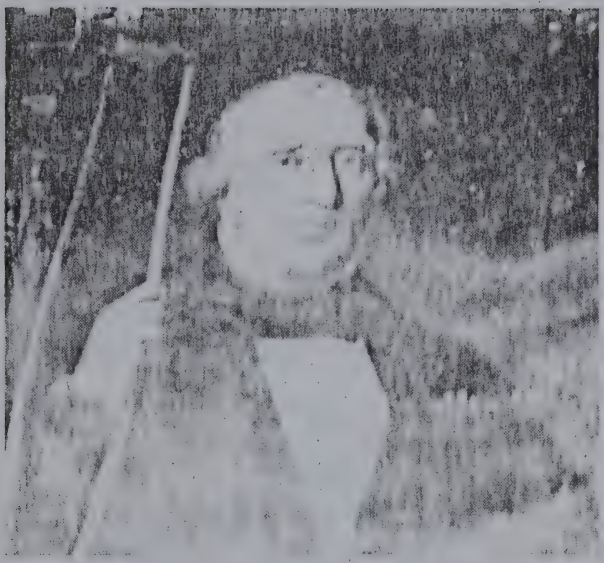
CHANCELLOR JAMES PARSONS CARROLL

James Parsons Carroll was born in Charleston in 1809 and at an early age came with his mother to Edgefield to make his home. His sister was Mrs. Mary Carroll Brooks, wife of Whitfield Brooks and mother of Preston S. Brooks. After his graduation from the South Carolina College he read law and was admitted to practice in Columbia in 1830. He became a distinguished lawyer at the Edgefield bar and few lawyers at Edgefield ever stood higher than he. He represented Edgefield in both branches of the Legislature. As a counselor he was distinguished for learning and professional ability, and was incorruptible as a judge. It was said of him, "Honors enrich him not who is an honor to his honors." He became Chancellor in 1859, and filled that position with dignity and honor. He was a member of the convention of 1860, and signed the Ordinance of Secession. He died in 1883, aged 75 years.

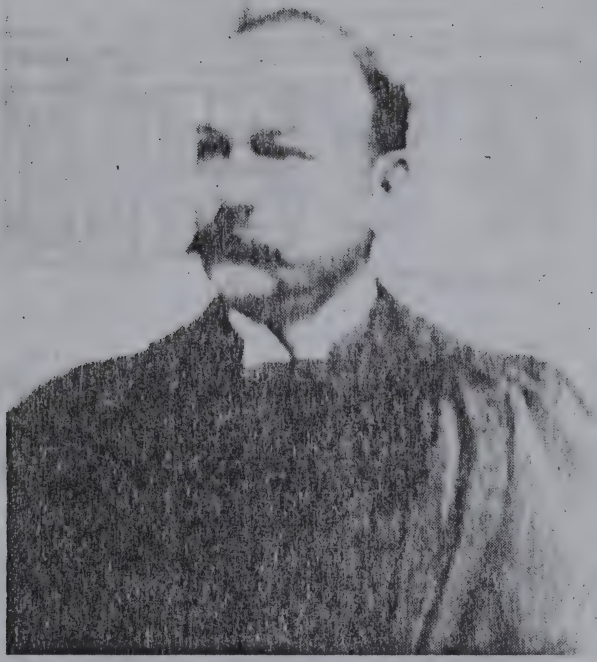


JUDGE ERNEST GARY

Term of Service: 1892-1914

JUDGE ERNEST GARY

Ernest Gary, born in Abbeville in 1859, was a son of Dr. Franklin F. nd Mary Caroline (Blackburn) Gary. Judge Gary came to Edgefield in 881 and practiced law with his uncle, General Martin Witherspoon Gary, nd was later a partner of Nathan George Evans, his cousin. He was lected to the Legislature in 1886, serving three terms, and in 1892 was lected Judge of the old Fifth Circuit, which office he held until his death. He was considered an able judge, who presided with ease, and the correctness of his rulings was commented upon many times. Throughout his areer Judge Gary was an active figure in the life of his County and State, was chairman of the Edgefield County Democratic Committee and delegate and popular figure in State Conventions. He was a younger rother of Chief Justice Eugene B. Gary, and a brother also of Judge rank Boyd Gary. He was a nephew, too, of Judge William T. Gary, of ugusta, Georgia, who also practiced in Edgefield before moving to eorgia where he was a member of that State's judiciary.



JUDGE JAMES WILLIAM DEVORE

Term of Service: 1908-1928

JUDGE JAMES WILLIAM DEVORE

James William DeVore was born in 1856 in the lower section of Edgefield County, a son of Dr. James A. DeVore and Rachael Prescott DeVore. He was educated at Washington and Lee University and was admitted to the bar in 1880. He opened an office in Edgefield for the practice of law and in 1902 became a member of the Legislature. He was re-elected several times and in 1908 he was elected Judge of the Eleventh Circuit when it was created, serving until his death in 1928. Judge DeVore married Miss Sallie Dozier of Edgefield who died in 1942. Judge DeVore was not only an able jurist who held the respect of the entire State judiciary, but was a beloved citizen of Edgefield, held in the warmest affection of the people of his home town who remember his unique personality, his rare wit and humor, and his kindly nature. He is buried in the Catholic cemetery at Edgefield.

JUDGE JAMES E. PEURIFOY

Term of Service: 1916-1923

JUDGE JAMES E. PEURIFOY

James E. Peurifoy was born May 9, 1872, in Edgefield County (now luda County), the son of Daniel Byrd Peurifoy and Nancy Wills Peuri-y. He was graduated from The Citadel in the class of 1894, being the neficiary from Edgefield County. From October 1, 1894, to June 4, 98, he was superintendent of the Walterboro Graded School. In the antime he had studied law and was admitted to the bar December 17, 97, in the same class with five others, three of whom were also to be-me judges: Judge C. J. Ramage, Judge Hayne F. Rice, Judge A. L. Gas-n, J. H. Peurifoy and J. M. Padget.

Judge Peurifoy served in the State Senate from Colleton County from 02 until 1906. In February 1916 he was elected Judge of the 14th Cir-it and served until February 1923 when he resigned. He is one of four Edgefield's honored judges now living. While he has made his home in alterboro for many years, he feels strongly the ties of family and friends the Mother County of Edgefield, and is held in warm esteem by those 10 have known him through the years. It is a remarkable coincidence at three of the men honored, Judge A. P. Butler, Judge M. L. Bonham, d Judge James E. Peurifoy, were descended from a mutual ancestor, e noted Captain James Butler who was killed at Cloud's Creek during e American Revolution.

CHIEF JUSTICE MILLEDGE LIPSCOMB BONHAM

Term of Service: 1924-

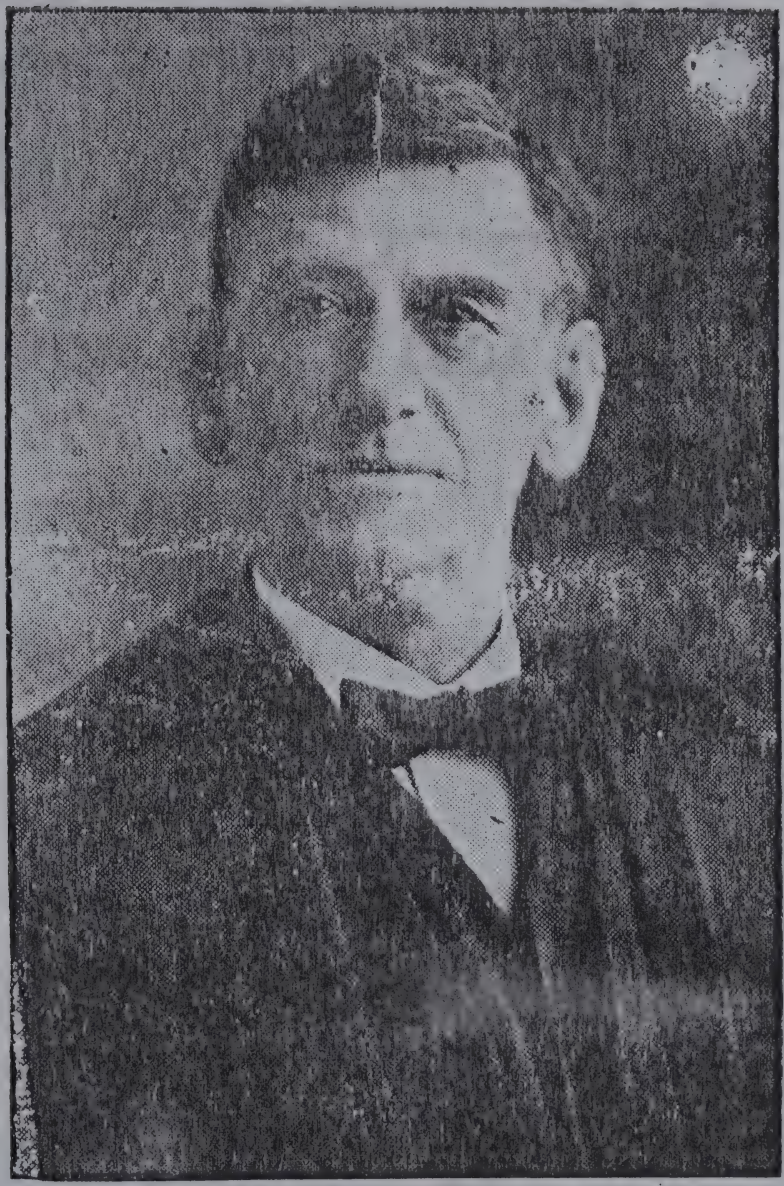
CHIEF JUSTICE MILLEDGE LIPSCOMB BONHAM

Milledge Lipscomb Bonham was born in the Village of Edgefield Oct. 16, 1854, a son of Governor and General Milledge Luke Bonham and Ann Patience Griffin Bonham. The family moved a few years later to their country home, "Darby," a few miles from Edgefield on the road leading to the "Pine House." Judge Bonham spent his youth at Edgefield, attending the schools of this place and later in Columbia. He was a student at the Carolina Military Institute.

He began the study of law with Colonel Robert Aldrich at Barnwell, and in February 1877 was admitted to the bar. He took up his residence at Ninety Six and practiced with M. B. McSweeney, afterwards Governor, and together they established the Ninety Six "Guardian," of which Judge Bonham was editor. For a year he lived in Newberry, where he was editor of the Newberry News, and in January 1880 he moved to Abbeville where he practiced law. He served as Master of Abbeville County, Adjutant and Inspector General of the State, was an aide on Governor Hugh Thompson's staff, and was active in party and fraternal affairs, especially after he moved to Anderson in 1894.

He was associated with Colonel H. H. Watkins of Anderson in the practice of law. On Feb. 1, 1924, Judge Bonham was elevated to the Circuit bench, and to the Supreme Court as Associate Justice on February 17 1931. He is now Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court.

Justice Bonham married first Miss Daisy Aldrich and they had three children. After the death of his first wife he married Miss Lillian Lula Carter of Laurens and they reside in Anderson. Justice Bonham is the only man among Edgefield's judges who was elected both as Circuit Judge and as Supreme Court Justice. Justice Bonham's children were: Dr. Milledge Louis Bonham, who passed away in 1941; Proctor Aldrich Bonham, of Greenville; and the late Miss Martha Ann Bonham.

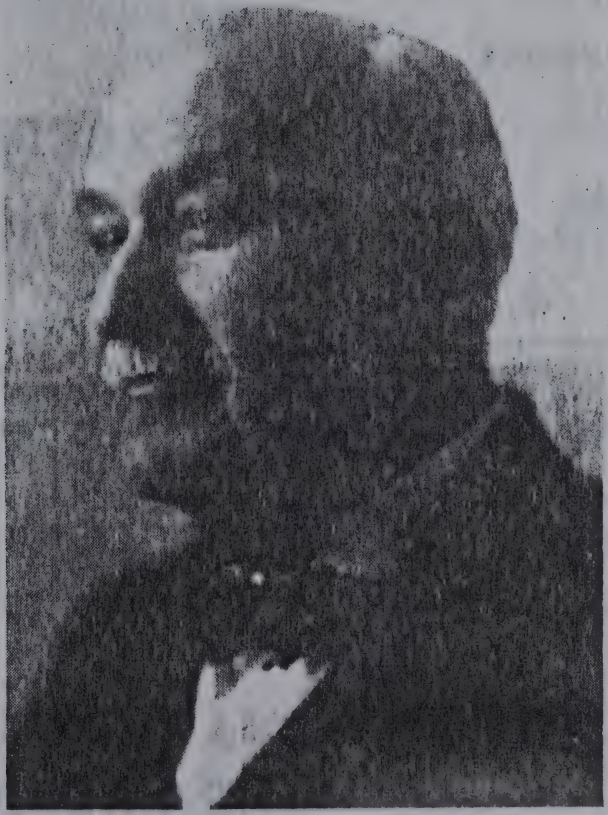


JUDGE CARROL JOHNSON RAMAGE

Term of Service: 1929-1937

JUDGE CARROL JOHNSON RAMAGE

Carrol Johnson Ramage was born May 1, 1874, in the section of Edgefield County that is now Saluda County, the son of John C. and Mary Ramage. After attending the local schools he went to Newberry College, and as an honor student, delivered the Lation salutatory and received the Bachelor of Arts degree. The college in 1929 conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. He began the practice of law in 1897 and continued until elected Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit in 1928, succeeding Judge J. W. DeVore. Judge Ramage had previously served as Special Judge on the State Supreme Court Bench. In addition to his law practice he was active in fraternal and church affairs, being a member of the Lutheran Church. He loved the traditions of old Edgefield and attended meetings of historical importance in the county whenever possible. Ever loyal to his Alma Mater, Newberry College, he died while attending the Little Mountain reunion of the college in the summer of 1938. He was married on May 24, 1904, to Miss Annie Belle Crouch, who survives him. At the funeral services held the Sunday following his death, hundreds of persons from all over South Carolina gathered to pay tribute to his memory.



JUDGE JAMES STROM THURMOND

Term of Service: 1938-

JUDGE JAMES STROM THURMOND

James Strom Thurmond, born Dec. 5, 1902, is the youngest judge ever to preside over the courts of South Carolina from Edgefield County. He was elected Judge for the Eleventh Circuit by the General Assembly of South Carolina on July 13, 1938, at the age of 35 years. He is a son of Eleanor Gertrude (Strom) Thurmond and the late Hon. J. William Thurmond, eminent lawyer of Edgefield.

In spite of his youth, Judge Thurmond has held many positions of public trust, having been Superintendent of Education in his own County of Edgefield, a trustee of Winthrop College, a member of the South Carolina Committee on Literacy and of the National Advisory Committee on Illiteracy, and a member of the State Senate when he sponsored much constructive legislation. The handsome Home Economics building at Winthrop College is named for him and he made the principal address at its dedication.

Judge Thurmond received his B.S. degree from Clemson College in 1923 and began his career by teaching in the public schools of South Carolina. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1930. He was subsequently admitted to practice in the United States District Court, the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court. He has served as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of South Carolina. He was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in 1932 and in Philadelphia in 1936. He is a member of many fraternal, patriotic and professional organizations, including the South Carolina Bar Association, Sons American Revolution, Masons, Junior Order (State Councilor, 1935), Knights of Pythias. He was a charter member of the "Edgefield Rifles," being First Lieutenant in this company of the South Carolina Home Defense Force. A Baptist, he has served as Sunday School Superintendent and Deacon. He entered active service as a Captain in the armed American forces April 17, 1942, having obtained a leave of absence from his judgeship.

JUDGE GEORGE BELL TIMMERMAN

Term of Service: 1942-

JUDGE GEORGE BELL TIMMERMAN

On January 27, 1942, the Hon. George Bell Timmerman began his duties as Federal Judge by appointment of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Judge Timmerman was born in Edgefield County March 28, 1881, a son of Washington Hodges and Henrietta (Bell) Timmerman. His father, a medical doctor, served the State as Lieutenant-Governor and as Treasurer. Judge Timmerman received his earliest education in the schools of his county, afterwards attending Patrick Military Institute, Anderson, and the University of South Carolina from which he was graduated in 1902 with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. The same year he opened his office in Lexington. In 1904, at the early age of 23, he was elected Solicitor of the Fifth Judicial Circuit and continued in that office for 16 years.

He was a member of the Legislature and has held many honors in the Democratic party of the State, among them the chairmanship of his county organization and the presidency of the State Convention in 1932. He is a member of the State and American Bar Associations; the Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity; the O.D.K. honorary fraternity; and is past Commander of the South Carolina Sons of Confederate Veterans. At one time he was a Captain in the State Militia, serving as Aide-de-Camp on the Brigade staff. During the administration of Governor Richards he was Lieutenant-Colonel on the Governor's staff. He has served as Deputy District Governor of the Thirty-second District of Lions International, his local membership being with the Batesburg-Leesville club. For many years he was President of the Alumni Association of the University of South Carolina. He is a Baptist and has been an active layman in his Association.

Judge Timmerman was married on November 22, 1906, in Anderson to Miss Mary Sullivan, daughter of John P. and Elizabeth (Vandiver) Sullivan. They have two children, one daughter and one son.

Address of Congressman Butler B. Hare

The security of a people under an organized system of Government is contingent upon some permanent agency with authority to administer their civil affairs. Such an agency has been found in any nationally organzed group as far back in history as civilization itself. The nature and extent of the systems have varied with the rise and fall of nations, and their measure of effectiveness has varied accordingly. In some we find they were very elastic and somewhat lacking in definiteness of policy. In others they were rigid, inelastic, and unalterable in their operation, but in all cases the basis for their rules, regulations, or principle were invariably predicated on what we know as Divine Law. It is interesting to observe that even when the people have not developed what we know as a proper conception of God the basic principle upon which they undertook to measure justice among themselves was closely related to Divine Law. This is not surprising but perfectly logical because justice as we understand it is an attribute of Divine nature, apart from which there can be no justice; it is the yardstick by which justice is determined.

It will not be my purpose to philosophize to any extent on the origin or function of our judicial system, but I think it is appropriate to observe that its history can be definitely traced by showing its analogy and relationship to Biblical history. In the book of Exodus we read that the first great law giver, Moses, "Chose able men out of Israel and made them heads to judge people at all seasons."

It is interesting to observe how closely many of the practices adopted in our judicial system follow the practice of the days of early history. For example, our districts in the Federal Courts, our judicial circuits in the State, and our tenure of office of Federal judges are scripturally well founded.

We read where "Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life." Apparently, he was appointed judge for life, which corresponds in this respect to the appointment of our Federal judges and a policy which may yet be adopted by our State. We read further where the judge: "Went from year to year in circuit to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah, and judged Israel in all these places," showing that they had circuit courts even in those days.

It is appropriate to observe how even the functions of our courts are patterned on the judicial system of Biblical days. We read in Deuteronomy the following instructions were given to judges: "Ye shall not respect persons in judgment, ye shall hear the small and the great alike, and ye shall not be afraid of the face of man."

It is a matter worthy of note to find that as a rule our judges of our country adhere to this policy. To judge the rich and the poor, the high and the low, all alike. Furthermore, the court in our judicial system is the last resort for justice; its decision is final in all civil matters. This policy is not without precedent and we read again: "According to the judgment which they (the courts) shall tell thee, thou shalt do; thou shalt not turn aside from the sentence they shall show thee, neither to the right hand nor to the left."

We could go further and give other illustrations showing how closely

our judicial system is related to the divinely established system in our early civilization and show how they are entitled to the respect and loyalty of every citizen who would resort to the courts for the protection of his rights. Our courts represent the mudsill upon which the coveted institutions of this republic are erected, and it is a source of great satisfaction to know that there is not a right a person may have but what he can have it protected by the court, and there is not a wrong or a grievance but what he can resort to a court or judicial tribunal for correction. It may be that some of them have made mistakes and possibly there have been some "unjust judges," but it is remarkable how few they have been, and our country is to be congratulated upon the purity and success of our courts generally. I should say in this connection that the courts are not confined exclusively to the action of judges because they are assisted by our jury system which has proven to be the safeguard of the rights and privileges of the American people, a system which has proven to be the strong right arm of our judicial system in the administration of justice. While our judges received their commissions from our governments they have what we consider as sacred responsibilities, and it is a great tribute to them to know that we have been able to obtain judges to recognize the sacredness of their responsibility and who have had the courage to discharge their duties without fear or favor.

It is no mistake, therefore, that your Society has set apart a day for memorializing and paying appropriate tribute to those of your county who have been honored with the responsibility of administering justice to your people. Further, it is not only proper that appropriate recognition of the services rendered by the judges of your county be made, but I think it is exceedingly appropriate that it has been done by the Historical Society of Edgefield County because, if I have been informed correctly, the larger proportion of your membership is made up of interested and progressive women of Edgefield County. I repeat, it is appropriate that the women arrange to pay this tribute, as in my judgment one of the most outstanding advances made since the establishment of our Government is the recognition of the civil and social rights of women by our courts. History reveals that for centuries and centuries woman had but few rights recognized by man or respected by the courts.

The early records of the English courts disclose that it was not uncommon for the husband to have a switch parked over the door of his home and the law permitted him to use it on his wife at will provided it was not larger than his thumb. The earnings of the wife became the property of the husband but under our system she is entitled to her own earnings. Her property rights are not only equal but in some cases superior to those of the husband under our system of jurisprudence. Under our law the husband is required to support the wife in keeping with his income but there is no law that will force the wife to provide for her husband's support. The free and uninfluenced consent of the wife is necessary before the husband can dispose of his real estate property but the wife has the right to dispose of hers at will. Not more than three centuries ago in most of the British possessions she was not supposed to eat at the same table with her husband, and she was not supposed to speak until spoken to. Of course, this custom is radically changed. I heard a lady say a few days ago: "This is a wonderful country and worth fighting for."

However, the right of trial by jury, freedom of speech, freedom of worship, and the prohibition of arrest and imprisonment from debt are probably four of the greatest privileges enjoyed by the people of this country It is in the defense of these and many other unnumbered great privileges that we are today engaged in the most expensive and disastrous war of history. To maintain these rights and privileges may require our last penny. It may mean the sacrifice of our cherished privileges, it may mean the sacrifice of our most precious loved ones, but all these sacrifices were made by our forefathers to secure them, and I am glad to think that many of us are willing to make them again to maintain and perpetuate these privileges. However, I did not come to speak of war and I refer to it only for the purpose of illustrating how important, how indispensable it is, to get a proper conception of the contribution our judicial system has played in maintaining these privileges in time of peace.

The rights and privileges of people in other days and other countries have been sacrificed through the weakness and inefficiency of their judicial systems, but the courts in our country have been the Rock of Gibraltar in our system of government. You may be able to find exceptional cases of miscarriage of justice due to the frailty or possible corruption of a few individuals, but the system as a whole stands today as uncorrupt as at any time in history.

It is a great privilege and honor for me to know personally your outstanding living judges. If the time permitted it would be a great pleasure to pay appropriate tribute to them because they have demonstrated outstanding ability as lawyers, and they are now demonstrating from day to day a fine sense of their responsibilities and discharging them faithfully and courageously.

Judge DeVore came along at a time when circumstances and opportunities for legal accomplishment were limited, yet my experience before him at the bar and my view of his opinions as a judge compelled me to say that in the real administration of justice and in the interpretation of the law he was entitled to be rated as one of the state's greatest jurists.

I knew Judge Ramage from early boyhood. We were born and reared in the lower part of Edgefield County, now Saluda, almost as neighbors. I knew the difficulties as well as the advantages he had in preparing himself for the bench. He was a student from his youth up; he not only had a profound knowledge of the law and the basic principles upon which it is founded, but he understood its purpose and never faltered in the discharge of his every duty.

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